Volume 7, No. 6 • February 11 , 2000

Nation

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Your life as a Sundance

Every now and then you come across something that sums up the dreams and hopes you have in such a way that you know you can't say it any plainer than that. The following passage is from Leonard Peltier's book My Life is My Sundance. It is remarkable that after years of being unjustly imprisoned that he still has these dreams and hopes that encompass all people not just his situation. I feel I would be inconsiderate if I did not share with you some of his writings. Though this should be in a book review the nature of his writing makes it tailor-made for an editorial. If we all can capture some of what he feels and thinks as well as making it part of our lifestyle then the world will be a better place.

"Out of death comes life. Out of pain comes hope. This I have learned these long years of loss. Loss, but never despair. I have never lost hope or an absolute belief in the rightness of my cause, which is my People's survival.

"I don't know how to save the world. I don't have the answers or The Answer. I hold no secret knowledge as to how to fix the mistakes of generations past and present. I only know that without compassion and respect for 'all' of Earth's inhabitants, none of us will survive — nor will we deserve to.

"The future, our mutual future, the future of all the peoples of humanity, must be founded on respect. Let respect be both the catchword and the watchword of the new millennium we are now all entering together. Just as we want others to respect us, so we need to show respect to others.

"We are in this together — the rich, the poor, the red, the white, the black, the brown, and the yellow. We are all one family of humankind. We share responsibility for our Mother the Earth and for all those who live and breathe upon her.

"I believe our work will be unfinished until not one human being is hungry or battered, not a single person is forced to die in war, not one innocent languishes imprisoned, and no one is persecuted for his or her beliefs.

"I believe in the good in humankind. I believe that the good can prevail, but only with great effort. And that effort is ours, each of ours, yours and mine....

"The struggle is ours to win or lose."

— Excerpt from Leonard Peltier's, "My Life Is My Sundance"

by William Nicholls

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Two lovebirds

Photographer: Neil Diamond
Cover Design: Sylvia Tennisco

rezNotes
by Ndiamon

Listen to that song playing on the radio. What's it about? Pick out a book on the shelf. What's it about? That movie you're watching. What's it about. Pick up that newspaper. What's the story about? Chances are they are about love. Okay, maybe not the newspaper story. It's probably about death and destruction, but no matter. Because it's fitting that the story of Valentine's Day is also the story of, like all great stories, love and death. And it goes:

In Rome in A.D. 270, Valentine enraged the mad emperor Claudius II, who had issued an edict forbidding marriage. Claudius felt that married men made poor soldiers, because they were loath to leave their families for battle. The empire needed soldiers, Claudius, never one to fear unpopularity, abolished marriage.

Valentine, bishop of Interamna, invited young lovers come to him in secret, where he joined them in marriage. Claudius learned of this "friend of lovers," and had the bishop brought to the palace. The emperor, impressed with the young priest's dignity and conviction, attempted to convert him to the Roman Gods to save him from otherwise certain execution. Valentine refused to renounce Christianity and imprudently attempted to convert the emperor. On February 24, 270, Valentine was clubbed, stoned, then beheaded.

While Valentine was in prison awaiting execution, he fell in love with the blind daughter of the jailer, Asterius. Through his unswerving faith, he miraculously restored her sight. He signed a farewell message to her "From Your Valentine," a phrase that would live on long after he died.

Isn't that, like, just the most frightfully romantic story you've ever, like, heard? Like, that moment when, like, Valentine writes his farewell message? I swear it made us weep and we lost the ability to write? So, we decided (sniffle) to let you do the work and this is what you came up with. I swear you just made us weep again. You called it:

My Dream Valentine's Day (names have been abbreviated to protect the guilty)

N: "To be whisked away to Paris, the city of romance, where I would have a room in a fabulous hotel! That special someone would have rose petals scattered across the floor and all over the bed, with a bottle of champagne chilling on the side."

RS: "To spend the weekend in the ice hotel in Sweden wearing only fur robes!"

RL: "To have a date and go out to dinner."

W: "My woman would surprise ME for a change - something I would never have conceived of!"

S: "To go on a date with the lead singer from Savage Garden and he would sing to me on Valentine's Day!"

L: "I want to be in Mexico sipping margaritas by the ocean, but alas, I have no money, no plane ticket, and no lover!"

AM: "To be surprised with a homemade gourmet meal."

E: "A weekend at the spa, without the kids... I love them dearly, but this is a dream, right?!"

CB: "I'm with E!"

AG: "Going out to a restaurant for a change instead of the usual Kraft dinner with hamburger in front of the TV."

D:"To be taken to a surprise destination somewhere very south, and spend a romantic few days on the beach with my man!"

R:"To be my look alike, John Travolta, and make passionate love to Olivia Newton John."

K: "I guess it would have to involve a woman. To spend time with a woman who adores me..."

B: "To be involved in a romantic threesome with Danny Devito and Rhea Perlman."

X: "Makin' sweet loooove with a crack ho at the bus station porcelain convenience."

ES: "An evening in Paris."

RD: "There's a lot of people listening right here. I'd like Valentine's day to be the same day as when Sports Fishing Season opens so I could go fishing with my girlfriend."

ESC: "Proposing to someone in a restaurant, getting everyone's attention, using them as witnesses and getting a loud cheer. Because I love applause." (What about on your wedding night? Ed.)

S: "In a tub of chocolate with someone (laughs). Good question. Be alone, I guess, with my two friends, Left and Right."

DG: "A nice evening at home, lying on a King sized waterbed in our housecoats, sipping wine, watching a feel good movie while she massages me the whole time."

M: Naked in a hot tub full of whipped cream with Patricia Arquette wearing her costume from True Romance...a bottle of single malt scotch. If she's bored she can bring Cameron Diaz with her. Oh, and naked serving girls.

N: "A surprise phone call at 11:59, February 13, from someone asking if she can come over."

The Nation is published every two weeks by Beesum Communications.

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THANKS TO:
Lawrence Jimiken, Air Creebec

Printedby Quebecor.

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Publication Mail #0584584
ISSN #1206-2642

***THE NATION* IS A MEMBER OF:**
The James Bay Cree Communications Society
Circle of Aboriginal Controlled Publishers
Canadian Magazine Publishers Association
Quebec Community Newspaper Association
Canadian Community Newspaper Association
Les Hebdos Sélect du Québec

WHERE TO REACH US:
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SUBSCRIPTIONS
Individuals & Institutions: $45
ABROAD: Individuals: $70 U.S.
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Fight to Remove Judge continues

The governments of Canada and Quebec and the forestry companies have asked that Judge Jean-Jacques Crouteau be replaced as the presiding judge in all the proceedings relating to the Cree forestry cases.

The judge was requested to do step down in December of his own free will, but Crouteau said no. In a motion at the end of January, the lawyers for Quebec, Canada and the 25-plus forestry companies asked the Quebec Superior Court to remove Crouteau. Lawyers for the governments and the forestry companies are saying that Crouteau has "prejudged" the case, and this should disqualify him from continuing to hear it.

Assoiciate Chief Justice Andre Deslongchamps refused to consider the motion. Deslongchamps referred the matter to Chief Justice Lyse Lemieux.

Cree leaders are calling this a victory, saying the "government treaty-busters" would "jump at any opportunity to attack decisions" favouring treaty rights.

Cree lawyers say the actions of the governments and forestry companies' lawyers was scandalous. The Crees received a fax telling them about the motion to remove the judge at 11 p.m., where it went unnoticed until 1:15 a.m. They were expected in court the next day at 9:30 a.m. to hear the motion. Crouteau, at that time, said the lawyers for the federal and Quebec governments and forestry company weren't following proper procedures, which give a judge 10 days to formally respond to the allegations.

Crouteau sent shock waves through the forestry industry and government circles with a ruling in December on a side motion in the case that favoured the Crees. He said his ruling was a question of law, pure and simple. Crouteau went on to write that this was a unique case that left him no choice but to examine it in that context. He wrote that he was bound to exercise his duties as a decision-maker in good conscience and in a sincere and impartial manner. This was the reason he refused to withdraw from the file.

Bill Namagoose, executive director of the Grand Council of the Crees, said the forestry companies "have found a reliable mercenary in the form of the Canadian government" in trying to impeach Crouteau. Namagoose said the federal government is supposed to be protecting Native rights.

Crouteau wrote in his defense, "It is obvious by the way the Minister and/or the Department apply the law and certain provisions of Section 22 (of the James Bay Agreement) there is an apparent breach of the rights of the Cree applicants to an environmental and social impact assessment in the case of a development or a development project."

Cree leaders are saying the governments and forestry companies are going too far. Before the case started, they had already submitted a list of 37 judges they didn't want hearing it. This was close to half of the judges in the court of Montreal. Said one Cree official, "Now, suddenly Judge Crouteau is not acceptable. You have to ask why is this? Is it because of his ruling?" Cree officials say this is yet one more example of Canada not fulfilling its trust obligations to First Nations and exerting undue pressure on any legal system that does recognize those rights.

by Will Nicholls

John Kitchen acquitted of drinking-and-driving charge

A judge has acquitted John Kitchen, former chief of Waswanipi, of a charge of drinking-and-driving.

The charge stemmed from an August 1998 incident in which Kitchen's vehicle went off the road on Highway 113, between Desmaraisville and Waswanipi.

Kitchen was chief at the time, but didn't run again in the community election last summer. He ran for deputy grand chief instead, but only got 4 percent of the vote.

Kitchen had spent the evening at the bar Le Splendide in Desmaraisville, which has since burned down.

Witnesses at the trial, which took place in Senneterre on November 10, disagreed on whether Kitchen was drunk at the time he left the bar at closing time.

The defense admitted he consumed four

or five beers at the bar, and fell asleep around 11 p.m. But the defense argued that he was under the effect of medicine. By the time a bar employee woke him up at 3 a.m., the alcohol had lost its effect, the defense claimed.

The defense also suggested the accident happened because Kitchen's tire blew out, not because of alcohol.

The judge accepted the defense's arguments, even going so far as questioning the motives of a witness who produced photos of Kitchen asleep in the bar.

"There was doubt about whether he was drunk," said Crown prosecutor Richard Duchesneau, who handled the case.

Duchesneau praised the judge's decision, saing the evidence was conflicting.

Jacques Ladouceur, Kitchen's Val d'Or-based defense lawyer, said the ex-chief was happy with the decision: "He was satisfied we won. I won't say he was disappointed."

Letter to *The Nation*:

It has been my desire to write to *The Nation* paper regarding this topic for the past long while. As we will be facing many changes in the new year 2000, I am concerned about our Native people. After many losses, a healing journey is now taking place, slowly, in our First Nations people.

This letter is for those in leadership in Native communities as well as those who are supervisors or leaders in their own departments of every sort. We, Native people, are always speaking of healing our nation, but what do those in leadership do?

Those in leadership, are you a good rolemodel? Do your behaviour and attitude reflect what was shown to us by our Great Grandfathers?

I have found spirituality within my heart so I am sending this message with love to our brothers and sisters. Years ago, our Native leaders placed their spirituality and well-being first.

We need leaders who have their priorities straight. We have many social problems, especially alcohol and drugs, to cover up the pain from all types of abuse. There is much confusion because the young see so much disrespect and dishonesty.

Then we wonder why our youth or community members are not progressing in a healthier way. I have been through many avenues in this life in different communities. I have experienced all types of abuse before I began my healing journey. I would not write this article if I was still in the cycle of abuse.

In the past, we had respect, honesty, trust, a healthy, unconditional love and wisdom to share. We can have these values in our lives again once our leaders start to take care of themselves. Our nations will heal and come together in a full circle. Then, may the circle be unbroken again!

I am not a politician, but I would like to suggest that one good band policy would be that on the next elections: we look at the person's personal values and beliefs. If we are trying to build a strong Cree Nation, then vote only for those who are in healing or have been in healing.

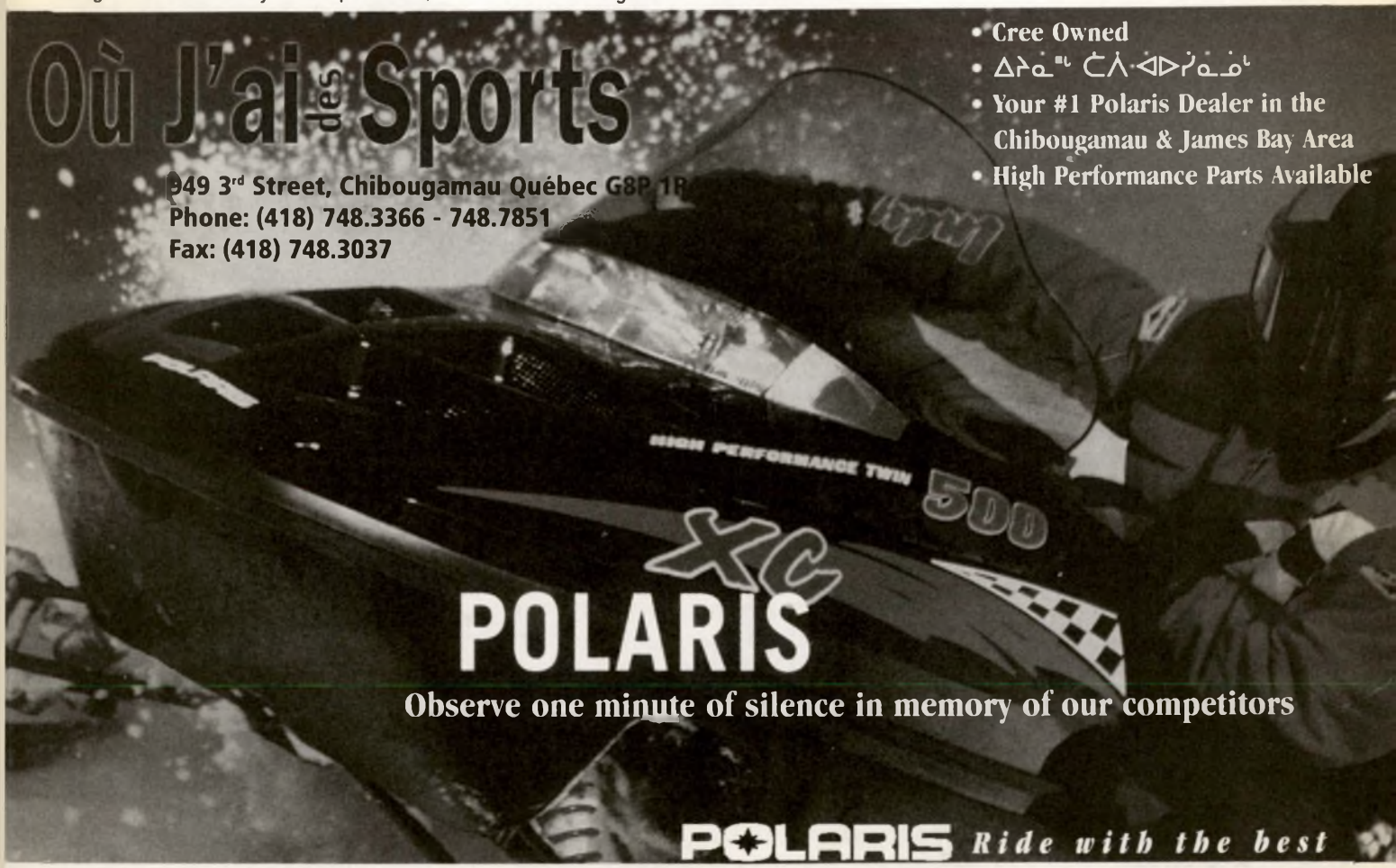
I tried to word this message as simple as possible so it can easily be understood and not misunderstood.

It can also be easily translated to those in need. Any response(s) will be much appreciated in the next issue of *The Nation*. I especially would like to hear sincere, honest responses from those in leadership. Have you began your personal healing journey, or are you a block to those in healing?

From your friend, Chisasibi

Ed. Note: This letter was edited because we could not identify the writer. We ask letter-writers to include a name so we can make sure it's legit.

More on page 23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It's a good day to learn Kanien'kéha

If Quebec can have a language law, why can't Kahnawake? That's what the elders of this Mohawk community said when they called on the band to adopt a law to protect their endangered language.

Just before Christmas, their wish became a reality when the band council passed the Kahnawake Language Law.

There won't be any of Quebec's famous "tongue trooper" language police measuring store signs to make sure the wrong language isn't too prominent. But the new law does require the Mohawk Council of Kahnawake and all other public institutions like the post office, hospital and Hydro-Quebec to provide services and documents in Kanien'kéha, the Mohawk language.

Band council employees also have a right to work in their own language and have Mohawk employment contracts.

The law declares that the people have a right to free expression in Kanien'kéha, as well as the right to be educated, registered at birth, named, married and receive last rites in the language.

Under the law, also known as Kaianerenhserón:ni ne Oknwawenna'ón:we Aóntston ne Kahnawake, the community has two years to make the switch.

Private businesses won't be forced to adapt Mohawk, but are being encouraged to follow suit anyway.

Kahnawake residents were extensively consulted before the law was adopted on December 20, though outside governments and institutions were not asked for their opinion. No outside elements have voiced an response since the law was adopted, according to Timmy Norton, band council spokesman.

"So far, the only reaction has been from within the community, and it's all been positive. People are happy the Mohawk council is taking a responsible position," he said.

"It's not a law where we're going to be arresting people. It's more of a spiritual thing to encourage people to learn the language."

The next step is teaching everyone Mohawk. The language was in danger of disappearing, with only 10 percent of the community still fluent.

The law will probably mean a boom in Kanien'kéha language courses, as residents flock back to the classroom. The band is now looking for funding to offer the needed courses and translate band documents.

At Kahnawake's post office, assistant postmaster Lynne Diabo, who is Mohawk herself, said she isn't sure how Canada Post will react to the new law. "At this point, I can't really comment on that because we're a federal office," she said.

"Our clientele are all basically English-speaking young people. Maybe it's a law, but they don't speak Mohawk either."

Diabo said only one part-time employee there, a Mohawk elder, speaks the language fluently. She said she might be willing to learn Mohawk "if they have a class that would meet my needs."

At Hydro-Quebec's office in Kahnawake, customer-service and collection agent Lilliane Williams and the other employee in the office are both Mohawks. She said she likes the new law: "I feel it's fine. I have no objections to it. I feel we should all know the language. I plan to start taking some courses soon."

by ALex Roslin

John Kitchen acquitted of drinking-and-driving charge

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The defense also suggested the accident happened because Kitchen's tire blew out, not because of alcohol.

The judge accepted the defense's arguments, even going so far as questioning the motives of a witness who produced photos of Kitchen asleep in the bar.

"There was doubt about whether he was drunk," said Crown prosecutor Richard Duchesneau, who handled the case.

Duchesneau praised the judge's decision, saing the evidence was conflicting.

Jacques Ladouceur, Kitchen's Val d'Or-based defense lawyer, said the ex-chief was happy with the decision: "He was satisfied we won. I won't say he was disappointed."

Fontaine meets Peltier

Phil Fontaine, National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations, visited with Native political prisoner Leonard Peltier in a show of solidarity and "grass-roots brotherhood."

Along with Fontaine were top officials of the National Congress of American Indians.

"He (Peltier) knows the support is there

Cont'd on page 9

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(Please indicate the posting number on your envelope)

continued from page 6

but when he actually sees it like this it raises his spirits and gives him a lot of hope," said Gina Chiala of the Leonard Peltier Defense Committee which helped coordinate the meeting.

Last summer in a historic conference in Vancouver the AFN and the NCAI passed a joint resolution in support of Peltier's release. This fall they met with U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno in an effort to get President Bill Clinton to grant Peltier executive clemency.

Peltier, in prison for almost 24 years, was convicted in the first-degree murder of two FBI agents and sentenced to two consecutive life sentences. Supporters have claimed Peltier is innocent since day one.

Amnesty International considers Peltier a political prisoner who should be "immediately and unconditionally released."

Canada became involved in the case after Peltier fled to Alberta via the "underground railroad" after the murders. He was extradited to the United States based on affidavits supplied by the FBI. After the Canadian court decided to send him back, the woman who wrote the affidavits claiming she saw Peltier shoot the agents recanted saying she had been coerced by the FBI. None of her evidence was ultimately used in Peltier's trial.

Fontaine and a lawyer hired by the AFN met with the 55-year-old Peltier for two and a half hours discussing strategies for his release, the history of the case and his lack of health care.

Also discussed was the possibility of securing the release of sealed case documents held by the U.S and Canadian governments.

"Mr. Peltier has been incarcerated for an incredible amount of time when you consider the facts of the case. There is no justification for keeping Leonard imprisoned any longer," Fontaine said in a report from Indian Country Today.

"He must be freed if we are to believe that justice in America is fair for all."

Kateri: Lily of the Mohawks

She passed away in 1680, but her miracles continue.

Catholic researchers say they've received over 100 written accounts of purported miracles attributed to Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha over the years.

So far, none of them has been accepted by the Catholic Church. But a small group of believers is working hard to change that and get Blessed Kateri recognized as a saint.

"In order for a miracle to be officially recognized, all the pertinent medical documents must be provided and the cure must be instantaneous," said Albert Lazare, office manager of the Kateri Centre in Kahnawake.

Legitimizing a miracle is a long process, according to Paul Lenz, executive director of the Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions in Washington (which represents the Catholic Church in the Native American community).

Lenz has had numerous meetings with Father Jacques Bruyere, the Canadian vice-postulator who is in charge of the Kateri sainthood cause in Canada while working out of the Kateri Centre.

Father Bruyere, for one, hasn't lost faith. To the contrary. His "Katerigram" published in the latest quarterly edition of "Kateri: Lily of the Mohawks" magazine is entitled "Great Expectations."

"What will happen tomorrow?" he asks. "We don't know, but we're looking forward to something good."

The Eastern Door newspaper in Kahnawake recently reported that prayers to the Blessed Kateri led to the improbable recovery of a Cochiti woman named White Bull from a 16-year coma following childbirth, just one of many glowing testimonials to Kateri's healing powers recorded long after her death in 1680.

"Maybe the miracle has finally come up," said Lenz. "Maybe this is it."

Lazare cites many other such cases, all of which have been to no avail thus far in getting Kateri officially declared a saint.

"In 1982," he recalls, "a St-Remi man fell very sick and the doctors said nothing could be done for him." He was thought to be on his deathbed. "But after prayers to the Blessed Kateri, the man was cured," Lazare remembers. However, even after all the necessary documents were gathered, the doctors refused to admit it was a miracle, saying it could have been the medicine.

"It's very difficult to prove a miracle," Lazare added, an understatement if ever there was one.

"Some 10-15 years ago in Phoenix, a couple's son was cured from deafness by prayers to Kateri," he contends. "One man living in New York State overcame a serious heart problem and yet another regained his eyesight after praying to her."

These are only a handful of testimonials to the Blessed Kateri received at "action central," otherwise known as the Kateri Centre. A Kahnawake teenager named Brandy Kateri Bush helped intensify a campaign last spring to get at least "50,000 promises of a daily Our Father, Hail Mary and three Glories until the miracle needed for Blessed Kateri's canonization is obtained and approved." Over 29,000 pledges were recorded after 10 years' effort.

Based on the preachings of the Bible, one should be persistent in requesting a miracle. According to Luke 10:27, the basic tenet to be observed when asking for a miracle is this: "Before asking for a cure... one must request it ardently and persistently."

To support this theory, the Bible quotes a certain judge's thinking in Luke 18:4: "Since she keeps pestering me, I must give this widow her just rights, or she will persist in coming and worry me to death."

-Source: The Eastern Door

U.S. gives back 84,000 acres

In the largest return of public land to First Nations in the continental United States in more than 100 years, the U.S. government is giving back 84,000 acres in northern Utah that it took from the Utes in 1916 to secure the rights to oil shale reserves.

Part of the deal is that the Utes have to contribute a percentage of any profits they derive from oil and natural gas production to the cleanup of a long-abandoned uranium site 120 km south of their reservation.

The Romance Test

Is your idea of romance putting the seat down for her after you're done or is it more along the lines of writing a daily haiku for her in her honour? When she asks "what are you feeling?" Do you freeze up like a deer caught in the headlights? Ladies, is his idea of romance letting you have the tv remote once in awhile? Take this test and find out your romance level.

Note: If you are using the test in regard to your date/mate's romantic gestures towards you, then the appropriate substitute would be "Does s/he..." at the beginning of each question.

COMMUNICATION:

Answer the following questions with a "Yes" or a "No".

1. Do you regularly TELL your date/mate that you love him/her?
Yes No

2. Do you compliment your date/mate regularly?
Yes No

3. Do you really listen to your date/mate, and make them feel that you are genuinely interested in their thoughts and emotions?
Yes No

4. Do you ask your date/mate if there is anything that they would enjoy doing: like seeing a new film, going out to dinner, or going for a walk together?
Yes No

5. Do you encourage your date/mate to be open with you about their sexuality and desires?
Yes No

SHOWING LOVE:

6. Do you ever send or give your date/mate flowers?
Yes No

7. Do you ever give your date/mate chocolates?
Yes No

8. Do you ever buy or wear lingerie for your date/mate?
Yes No

9. Do you write your date/mate love letters?
Yes No

10. Do you send your date/mate romantic cards?
Yes No

11. Do you express love to your date/mate the way s/he wishes to receive love?
Yes No

12. Do you provide "little surprises" for your date/mate, such as leaving love notes in unexpected places or recording sexy voice mails?
Yes No

13. Do you kiss your date/mate upon meeting and parting?
Yes No

14. Do you call your date/mate at work and tell them that you love or miss them?
Yes No

15. When you are away do you call your date/mate every day?
Yes No

16. Do you still "flirt" with your date/mate, no matter how long you have known each other?
Yes No

17. Do you make small gestures, such as offering backrubs or other special social or sexual activities that you know your date/mate enjoys?
Yes No

18. Do you still "court" your date/mate, treating them as if they are desirable and special?
Yes No

19. Do you have a 'pet' name for your date/mate?
Yes No

20. Do you sometimes wear clothing that you know your date/mate finds attractive on you, just to please them?
Yes No

21. Do you wear certain perfumes or colognes because your date/mate particularly likes them?
Yes No

22. Do you show interest in the activities /hobbies that your date/mate enjoys?
Yes No

23. Do you encourage your date/mate to pursue their dreams?
Yes No

APPRECIATION:

24. Do you express appreciation or gratitude for the "little things" your date/mate does for you?
Yes No

25. Do you try to make your date/mate feel as if they are the most important, wonderful person in the world?
Yes No

26. Do you make your date/mate feel as if you have eyes only for them?
Yes No

27. Do you treat your date/mate with the same level of admiration, consideration, and affection that you would like to receive?
Yes No

28. Do you speak highly of your partner to other people and/or tell others that you love him/her?
Yes No

29. Do you focus on your date/mate's positive qualities more often than their negative ones?
Yes No

30. Do you remember important days, such as birthdays and anniversaries, and try to make them a special occasion for your date/mate?
Yes No

31. Do you accept gifts from your date/mate graciously; expressing appreciation for the thought, even if you do not really care for the gift?
Yes No

ACTIVITIES:

32. Do you ever suggest a weekend trip away somewhere for love?
Yes No

33. Do you regularly "plan" or schedule time to spend exclusively with your date/mate?
Yes No

34. Do you hold hands or walk arm-in-arm when you are out?
Yes No

35. Do you like to slow dance?
Yes No

36. Do you like to go to quiet, romantic restaurants?
Yes No

37. Do you like walks on the beach or in the park with your date/mate?
Yes No

38. Do you use soft music/candles/incense to set the mood for lovemaking?
Yes No

39. Do you ever spend a whole day in bed together with your date/mate?
Yes No

40. Do you ever spontaneously initiate lovemaking?
Yes No

41. Do you still occasionally "seduce" your date/mate, no matter how long you have known each other?
Yes No

42. Do you spend time after lovemaking just cuddling or talking with your date/mate?
Yes No

43. Do you give massages and/or backrubs or foot-rubs to your date/mate?
Yes No

44. Would you be willing to try unusual new erotic activities to please your date/mate, if asked? (i.e. role playing, light bondage, toys,etc.)
Yes No

YOUR FEELINGS

45. Do you consider yourself to be a passionate and open-minded lover?
Yes No

46. Are you physically affectionate on a day-to-day basis?
Yes No

47. Do you like kissing a lot?
Yes No

48. Do you still feel "in love" no matter how long you have been with your mate?
Yes No

49. Do you daydream about being with your date/mate?
Yes No

50. Do you tend to enjoy books, poetry, music or movies that contain an element of passion or love?
Yes No

Turn to page 13 for the results

The Rock

By Alex Roslin

So you wanna buy her a diamond. The hard part is over. You found your soul mate. Now, you want to give her something that will last forever, just like your love for each other. Or maybe it's for your husband, grandmother, mistress, favourite high school teacher, or butcher.

But how do you choose the right ring? What makes one diamond nicer than another? I had no idea what I was doing when I went diamond shopping in downtown Montreal just before Christmas.

All I knew was it felt right, and my girlfriend was probably going to go into a coma when she opened her Christmas present. I didn't even know how much to spend.

My first attempt didn't work out too great. I walked into a small jewelry store on Ste-Catherine Street and said, "I want to buy a diamond ring." The clerk looked me over and, without losing eye-contact, reached back to hit a button on the wall. A door opened and a big serious-looking fellow stepped out, eyeing me suspiciously.

My good vibes were disappearing fast. The clerk pulled out what looked like a suitcase and opened it up. Inside were dozens of diamond rings of all shapes and sizes. I figure he had at least $100,000 worth in there. So you can see why they had lots of security. I looked at a few rings, but nothing really caught my eye. They all looked pretty much the same to me.

I decided to do a little research on the internet, which is where I struck "gold." There are lots of sites about choosing diamonds. They also tell you how not to get ripped off. I was quickly learning that there are a lot of profiteers in the "love business."

One good tip I got off the internet was that you should find a jeweler you trust. This is where fate took over. I looked in the Yellow Pages under jewelry wholesalers, and the first place to catch my eye was the Gemmological Laboratory of Canada, located downtown on de Maisonneuve Blvd.

As soon as I talked to the owner, Yves Godbout, I knew he was my man. Not only is he a 25-year industry veteran who appraises diamonds for retailers and sells them himself, but he also studied karate for more than 20 years and used to have his own martial arts magazine.

Godbout took the time to introduce me to the interesting world of the diamond business. You can tell he loves his job. His eyes sparkled as he talked about these twinkling little stones while letting me explore them under a microscope.

The biggest mistake people make is thinking size is all that matters. A lot of people walk into a jewelry store with the idea of buying the biggest diamond they can afford. Unfortunately, many jewelers take advantage of this by selling low-quality diamonds that happen to be big.

A diamond's weight is measured in carats. There are 142 carats in an ounce. Each carat is further divided into 100 points. Ninety-nine percent of diamond owners have one that's smaller than a carat.

The first thing to know is that two diamonds with the same carat weight can have a very different value. A one-carat diamond can cost anywhere from $16,000 for a top-quality stone - that's 8,000 times the value of gold - to as little as $2,800.

Carat weight is just one of the "four Cs" that decide a diamond's value. The other "Cs" are clarity, colour and cut. These are the factors that determine how "brilliant" a diamond is - how it sparkles and catches the light.

Clarity refers to the diamond's "purity" - whether it has flaws, or "inclusions." Most diamonds on the market have little cracks, spots or feathers in them, and a good jeweler will point them out with a microscope. The bigger the flaws, the duller a diamond will look.

Colour is also important. The whiter the diamond, the higher the value. Many retailers, including big department stores, only sell diamonds with very poor colour ratings. If you look closely, you will notice they look a little yellow or grey.

Finally, there is cut. A diamond has to be shaped by an experienced master draftsman to very precise dimensions for it to break down the light and redirect it to show off its brilliance and clarity.

How can you tell if you should trust a diamond retailer? Godbout says beware of anyone selling "top light browns." These are yellowish diamonds that are usually sold with a big discount. If a jeweler has a 50-percent-off sale all year long, there's a good chance they're not selling a quality product.

Ideally, a jeweler should show you the stone before it's mounted in a ring, so you can see it under a microscope and compare several stones. "If they say it's a VS (only very slightly flawed) and there is a big inclusion in the middle, you know there's something wrong," said Godbout.

"It's like buying a good wine. The main thing is to see what you're buying."

A few other tips:

- Don't feel pressured to buy a diamond just to prove you love someone. Your love is what's important.

- Platinum bands are better than gold. Gold wears out and you can lose the stone. Also, my brother, a chemical engineer, tells me gold is very slightly radioactive.

- Make sure the ring holds the diamond firmly in place. You might want to get six prongs instead of the usual four.

- Get it insured.

And by the way, she said yes.

The Gemmological Laboratory of Canada can be reached at (514) 843-5059. On the web check www.adiamondisforever.com and www.white-diamonds.com.

Women's little survival book

(For those who have loved and lost)

1. Never do housework. No man ever made love to a woman because the house was spotless.
2. Remember that the idiot you are with determines your reputation.
3. Don't believe you can change a man — unless he's in diapers.
4. What do you do if your boyfriend walks out? Lock the door behind him.
5. So many men — so many reasons NOT to sleep with any of them.
6. If they can put a man on the moon, they should be able to put them all there.
7. Tell him you're not his type — you have a pulse.
8. Never let your man's mind wander. It's too little to be out alone.
9. The only reason men are on this planet is cats can't dance or buy drinks.
10. When he asks if he's your first, tell him, "You may be. You look familiar."
11. You might as well go for younger men. He will never mature.
12. A man who can dress himself without looking like Forrest Gump is unquestionably gay.
13. Men are all the same. They just have different faces so you can tell them apart.
14. Definition of a bachelor: a man who has missed the opportunity to make some woman miserable.
15. Women don't make fools of men; most men are the do-it-yourself type.
16. The best way to get a man to do anything: suggest they may be too old for it.
17. Love is blind, but marriage is a real eye-opener!
18. If you want a committed man, look in a mental hospital.
19. The children of Israel wandered around the desert for 40 years, proving even in biblical times men wouldn't ask for directions.
20. If he asks what sort of books you like, tell him cheque books.
21. A man's idea of serious commitment is usually, "Oh all right, I'll stay the night."
22. Don't sleep with men who, if they were women, you wouldn't even bother to have lunch with.
23. Remember, a sense of humor doesn't mean you tell him jokes; it means you laugh at his.
24. When he asks you if you're faking it, tell him no, you're just practicing.
25. Just remember, all men are created equal

The Results

FROM PAGE 10-11

The Romance Test makes no judgements of your answers. The total number of "Yes" answers determines a percentile figure of romantic traits which you or your date/mate exhibit. It is hoped this will encourage you to express your feelings of love towards your partner on a daily basis to enhance the romance in your relationship.

75-100% "YES" Answers:

You're the King or Queen of romance! Congratulations! We're sure your partner must be most pleased with your attentions and affections. You obviously know how to express your feelings of love to your date/mate, which is one of the foundations for a successful relationship. Keep up the good work!

50-75% "YES" Answers:

Your results indicate that you are a pretty romantic person. You may want to strive to greater heights of romance by studying your results and putting in practice those things that you do not do on a regular basis. You may also want to talk to your date/mate about what s/her would like to receive from you in terms of expressions of love, and in turn, tell them what you appreciate from him/her in romantic gestures.

0-50% "YES" Answers:

Don't go looking for a job at Hallmark Cards! It would appear that you need to look at yourself and how you express your feelings of love to your date/mate. Perhaps you have a difficult time expressing your feelings, or perhaps you merely don't know how to. In the latter case, ask your date/mate what you could do that would show him/her how you feel. Definitely study your answers to the questions and start doing some of the things suggested. Also you may want to pick up a book or too on romance, love, flirting or relationships to get some hints. Romance is the ultimate example of giving being its own reward. And, we guarantee what you put out will come back for a win/win relationship. . Go for it!

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GRANT PROGRAM FOR ARTS

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Mimaahtaawaayihtihtaaw

Let's think creatively!

The Aanischaaukamikw/ Cree Cultural Institute project, in collaboration with the Cree Regional Authority, is pleased to announce a grant program aimed at the development of the performing and visual arts, and literature, in the Eeyou/Eenou communities. Financial support will be provided to Cree organizations or individuals in support of events or projects in the fields of music, theatre, dance, literature, painting, sculpture, etc.
Deadline for applications: February 29, 2000
Please contact Kenny Mianscum for further information on this program.

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Aanischaaukamikw
CREE CULTURAL INSTITUTE
INSTITUT CULTUREL CRI

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Thanks to the Quebec Ministère de la Culture et des Communications.

By Xavier Kataquapit

Weather Reports

I had the opportunity to spend a few days with my parents lately. They ventured down from Attawapiskat to do some shopping and a little visiting. While they were here we got into a conversation about the weather. It seemed to be an appropriate subject considering that the temperature in the Timmins area over the last three weeks has been hovering between -30 and 40 degrees Celsius.

My dad Marius and my mom Susan amaze me with their knowledge of the old ways. They are the last generation that has memory of the way the Crees lived from the dawn of time to the coming of the European. They are the last generation to speak and write fluently the Cree language, and to know what it is like to survive on the land.

When we talked about how our people would forecast weather in the old days I realized how close to the land and nature my people were. They were so in tune with nature and the world around them that over the centuries they developed many ways to forecast the weather. Of course, they did this out of necessity due to the fact that they were very vulnerable to the elements. The weather affected everything including their food sources and their safety of travel in the wilderness, on the river systems and the great James Bay.

For example, mom and dad tell me that a wood fire comes in very handy when predicting a weather temperature change. The next time you are looking into a wood fire remember this means of weather forecasting that has been passed along through generations of the James Bay Crees. As you look into the fire you might notice the pulsating glow generated from the coals. If these wood coals are burning a very yellow or bright red/orange it means that warmer weather is to be expected, and if they happen to be burning a bright white that means colder weather is on the way.

Another way of forecasting the weather involves the sun and is used mostly in the winter months. Of course, you have to keep an eye on the sun and monitor it daily. If you notice, a ring will sometimes surround the sun. If you look closely the colour of this ring will tell you what weather is to be expected. A dull colour means there will be warm weather ahead and if it is bright white it means cold weather is coming.

A wonderful way that our people used to forecast the weather had to do with Wawatay or what are otherwise known as northern lights or aurora borealis. If you see the Wawatay and notice they are very green in colour, that means warmer weather is just around the corner. Now if the Wawatay appear a lighter green or almost white it means colder weather is on its way. You can also forecast what the wind conditions will be through observing the Wawatay. If the Wawatay is active, with lots of movement and pulsating across the sky, this indicates that in the very near future you can expect high winds. If the Wawatay is not moving a lot and very inactive this means the winds will be calm.

Another more bizarre way to forecast the weather has to do with the condition of a person's healing frost-bitten skin. The mere fact that this means of forecasting the weather even exists gives you some idea of how vulnerable people were to the elements at one time. If you have frost-bitten skin and notice that as it heals you feel an itching sensation, that meant that warmer weather is on the way.

Another means of forecasting the weather is related to the insect world. In the spring as the snow is melting with the power of the sun you will notice little black insects flying all over the place. They are hard to notice and seem more like dust particles. If suddenly you begin to notice thousands of black specs on the snow it means these insects are dying and dropping like flies. This signifies that a cold spell is right around the corner and you should prepare for it.

So there you have it - a few nifty ways to forecast the weather thanks to thousands of years of the Cree tradition of handing down information about our traditions and cultures by word of mouth. Thanks also to my dad Marius and my mom Susan for keeping these traditions and their culture alive and well.

You are invited to a free 2-day funding proposal workshop, co-sponsored by the Council of the Cree Nation of Mistissini and the Aboriginal Healing Foundation.

Anyone interested in developing and submitting proposals for a healing project that will address the legacy of physical and sexual abuse arising from the residential schools, including intergenerational impacts, is encouraged to attend.

We will review and discuss components of the application process, including

- what the Aboriginal Healing Foundation will fund,
- how to complete an application form,
- deadline dates, and
- the application review process.

You will receive a copy of the Program handbook 2nd Edition. There will also be an opportunity for you to work on your proposal. Light refreshments will be provided.

Proposal Development Workshop
February 15 and 16, 2000
Confortel Motel
Val d'Or, Québec

LES MINES
INMET
Inmet Mining Corporation
Troilus Division

Posting # 083: ELECTRICAL ENGINEER (permanent) (Maintenance)

The Troilus Division is presently searching for a ELECTRICAL ENGINEER(Maintenance) to join their young and dynamic management team. The Troilus Division is a gold and copper open pit mine with a mill capacity that has been upgraded to 15,000 tpd. The mine site is located at 175 km north of chibougamau by way of the "Route du Nord". The selected candidate will work on a 4/3 schedule (4 days of work, 3 days off) and will be lodged at the site's first quality camp.

Required qualifications:

- The candidate must hold a bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering member of Quebec's order of Engineers.
- Must possess exellent knowledge of automated controls and instrumentation. Can perform programming in GRAFCET or scale.
- Furthermore, the candidate conceives electrical plans(high and low tension) and maintains these up to date.
- He/she will make recommendations to improve control of the procedures and participate in the implementation of an expert system.
- Knowledge of programs such as: Excel, Word and Autocad are essential.
- The candidate must have an excellent knowledge of English and French, both written and spoken.
- An experience with Modicom automatisms and the Wonder Ware operator interfaces would be an asset.

Main responsibilities:

- Approves and produces directives on the process control system;
- Makes technical recommendations concerning conceptions and modifications of electrical systems;
- Maintains technical documentation so that it is up to date;
- Participates with the work group in the conception, implementation and maintenance of the expert system;
- Establishes work methods in order to respect safety regulations, work quality and the prescribed delays;
- Insures that costs do not exceed the planned budget;
- Works in close collaboration with the Chief Electrician and the instrumentation technicians;
- Identifies and elaborates training programs with the maintenance group;
- Insures that all health and safety regulations are respected during these interventions;
- Performs any other related tasks.

Particularities and remuneration

Inmet Mining Corporation offers a competitive salary. The position is addressed to men and women. Inmet Mining Corporation encourages the hiring of Crees and thanks all applicants of their interest, but advises that only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

Those interested are to send their Curriculum vitae, no later than February 25, 2000 to:

Human Resources Department
Inmet Mining Corporation
Troilus Division
P.O. Box 8700
Chibougamau(Quebec)
G8P 3A9

(Please indicate the posting number on your envelope)

REMEMBERING THE JOY OF HIKING

By Lindsay Cote

The outdoors is not just about hunting, fishing and trapping. In most cases it's about being close to nature and its elements. The sounds, smells and colours of the forest around you have a very positive effect on most individuals. If you are patient and can take the time to slowly make your way through the bush, you might be in for a few pleasant surprises.

On one such occasion, when I was a "young buck" I attended a summer camp in the Canadian Rockies with a number of Aboriginal youth. For hiking, excitement and scenery, the mountains have it all.

One of our chosen activities during our stay at camp was to climb a mountain. We didn't have the training to scale rock faces so we were instructed to take a trail up the easy way. That was fine with me; I always wanted to see what the world looked like from up on those big rocks.

I considered myself lucky to be going on that hike because, being my mischievous self, I was already in the counselors' bad books. On the second day at camp I had decided to borrow another kid's shirt, drape it over a cardboard box and use it as target practice. I had previously scouted out one of the camp counselors' bow and arrows for the task. The shirt was to make my cowboy target look more authentic or I was inventing my version of the Arrow shirt.

Little did I know, but the boy who's shirt I borrowed had previously fallen into the nearby mountain stream, almost froze himself and burned his running shoes down by putting them too close to the fire to dry out. To top it off, I was turning his wardrobe into a perfectly good fishing net. Let's face it, the boy was having a bad day at the office, and I wasn't helping.

We had started our trek up the path towards the mountain with a fair amount of gear for the trip. Lunch, extra clothing, first-aid kit and climbing rope for the few rough spots. The counselor did give some friendly advice before setting off: "Lindsay, I know what you're like and I don't want you pushing anyone off the mountain."

I remember smiling and looking up at him and saying, "Who, me?" He looked down at me and said, "That's what I was afraid of." With that exchange we continued on our way out of camp towards the base of the mountain.

The counselor had led us about a mile from camp and we had already come across a wide number of different animal tracks. I had a feeling we were going to see some wildlife and to get even closer to the game. Just in case we had brought along some binoculars.

All the gang had walked for some time, listening to birds, stopping to smell the different mountain flowers and scoping out the odd elk in the clearing below us. We stopped to watch a black bear and cubs on the mountain across from where we were. I guess she pick up our scent though because she headed for greener pastures.

Some boys who were running ahead found a good spot to stop for lunch. It was up on a flat overlooking the valley, and in my opinion it was beautiful. The sun shining in the valley made the surroundings look like someone had just painted them. Add the scent of a soft mountain breeze and you'd think you were in God's country.

Two of the boys were scoping down the hill for some time when I got curious and asked them what they were looking at. They told me that people down at the tipi camp they'd been watching were running around with nothing on. Well, I thought I would scope it out for myself and, sure enough, bare bottoms in the valley.

I wanted to see wildlife, but this is not what we had in mind. Everyone had a turn to view and comment on "Camp Moon." It was unanimous: it was too cold to be running around in "them thar hills" with just a smile on your face. After a good laugh and funny remarks from the peanut gallery, we were on our way again.

The long walk to the top of the mountain was tiring and we needed a good rest when we arrived at the top. It was fairly flat with a few mountain shrubs scattered about, but the view was great. We could see the highway off in the distance and the cars looked like ants marching by.

It wasn't long before I got itchy feet and needed an exploration fix. I asked a pal of mine if he wanted to find a place to throw some boulders off the mountain. He agreed, so we circled around behind the relaxing counselors and made our way over a knoll further up the peak to find a place to throw some rocks.

We found a good spot where we could see a long way down without having to get too close to the danger zone. At one point in our rock tumbling I tripped trying to "heave ho" an oversized rock over the edge and slid on my stomach to the edge of the cliff. Lucky for me, my quick-thinking buddy reached over and grabbed hold of my left foot. However, before he pulled me back, I received a glimpse of my first rock face. Let me tell you, 200 feet is a long way down when someone is only holding you by your ankle.

Needless to say, that was it for our rock throwing. Once my pulse returned to normal we headed back to hang out with the others who were already packing up to make the journey back down. I was lucky I had a friend with me or I could be writing this story from the spirit world.

The group spotted some more wildlife with a snow-white mountain sheep taking centre-stage. We even stopped and picked some wild flowers for the camp cook who was patiently waiting for our return.

All I have to do is remember and all the smells and sounds of the Canadian Rockies come back to me. It was nice to be able to hike around and watch nature at work. I not only learned a bit about the mountains, I also learned about myself. Who cares if we had to hum the theme from Mutual of Omaha's Wild Kingdom all the way down the mountain. It was fun with the exception of my near sky-diving incident.

You don't have to almost fall off a mountain like I did; all a person has to do is look in their own backyard. Plan for any situation, whether you go on a short walk or a week-long trip. There's adventure all around you, if you take the time to look.

When going on long hikes invite a friend or friends to come along. It's the safe way to go. Remember, share your experiences of the adventure and I'm sure everyone will be intrigued with your version of The Outdoorsman.

The Development of the James Bay Territory is Racially Based and Violates the Terms of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement

In 1975 we signed the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement as a pact for the social and economic development of the Territory. The Governments of Canada and Quebec solemnly committed in the Agreement to undertake the measures necessary to do three things:

1. protect the continued occupation and use of the whole of the Traditional Cree Territory, Eeyou Istchee, by the Crees;
2. to facilitate the development of the Cree communities with the construction of sewage and water systems, fire protection, housing and all of the other things necessary and appropriate to have viable communities;
3. to open the door to Crees and Cree companies to participation in the short and long term development opportunities on the whole of the Territory

The results today are clear:

- today the Crees have fewer than 1% of the full-time jobs in forestry, mining and hydro-projects on the Territory even thought they constitute a major part of the Territorial population;
- the Cree communities are in need of sewage and water system expansions, proper fire protection facilities, and facilities for health, education and community services
- 1500 Cree families urgently need housing and the present programs for housing do not even meet the growth in the needs, 2000 housing units are required over the next 5 years.

Canada and Quebec argue in the courts that the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement does not obligate them to carry out what was agreed to in 1975. The discrimination against the Crees results largely from the "treaty busting" approach of the Government of Canada, Department of Indian and Northern Affairs and Department of Justice, among others, and of the Government of Quebec, including the Secretariat of Aboriginal Affairs and Department of Natural Resources. This is a violation of Cree constitutional and international rights.

What we signed in 1975 was a social and economic treaty for the betterment of our communities and to guide the good relations with the population of the Territory.
The Federal Legislation (The James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement Native Claims Settlement Act) to implement the JBNQA recognizes a special obligation on the part of the Federal Government to the James Bay Crees. This is what we continue to seek. We insist that Canada and Quebec respect the rule of law.

Grand Chief Ted Moses

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CREE REGIONAL AUTHORITY
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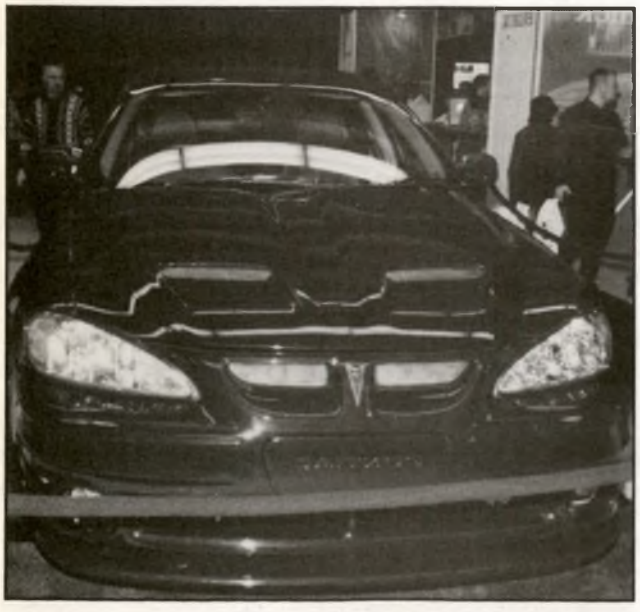
GRAND COUNCIL OF THE CREES (EEYOU ASTCHEE)
GRAND CONSEIL DES CRIS (EEYOU ASTCHEE)

CAR SHOW Y2K

- NO BUGS FEATURED HERE

PHOTOS BY NEIL DIAMOND



Grand Slam for Grand AM.

By William Nicholls

One always gets an "Oh, cool" attitude when visiting the Montreal International Auto Show. Of course the "Oh, cool" attitude wasn't the same as last year's when the Olympic Stadium's roof fell in, totaling some cars. This year the 2000 show was different, but it still contained the excitement of past years.

The show started off differently, with a display of 200 motorcycles greeting us as soon as we walked in. Seeing the Harleys prominently displayed at the front prompted Neil to say, "Someday, someday, I'll own a Harley." A passerby agreed with him, saying the one he was trying out suited him to a tee.

In my heart of hearts I think Neil's read too many Hunter S. Thompson novels and wants the ultimate experience. With so many models to chose from I was a little less picky, running from cycle to cycle saying, "I want, I want." Guess motorcycles still appeal to the boys stuck inside of men ever since that Easyrider movie. Overall, I was as always impressed with the Ninja's. Great take-off speed, but in the end I think my budget could afford perhaps a Kawasaki.

cont'd on page 20

CAR SHOW Y2K

For the coolest Cree spy anywhere.

Don't change anything until i can afford one.

Next on the route in the Place Bonaventure Convention Centre was the new Porsche Spexter. Very stylish with a little retro look, masked by a futuristic minimalist interior. If the jet commercials weren't enough there was the Gillette Mach 3 car. This is a bat-winged-door car that was designed in Quebec by Paul Deutschman. His creations also include Bombardier's NEV electric vehicle, Traxter ATV as well as the aforementioned Spexter. Included in the show was one of his earlier creations, a made-in-Quebec three-wheeled, two-passenger T-Rex which we wrote about last year.

Then there was a scene to be remembered. It was the first time I had ever seen Neil with longing and lust in his eyes. As he climbed into the car to sit behind the wheel, he didn't even seem to notice the cute blond beside him. We were on the main floor and had come across the newest Outback. Subaru billed this as the world's first sport-utility Sedan. They say it brings together the "rough-and-ready" usefulness of a sport-utility, with the "comfort and convenience of an elegant" Sedan. The clearance was impressive, but what was even more impressive was the fact that this was the only vehicle Neil wanted a second look at before we left. I would have to say the Outback Sedan is the Photographer's Choice for this year. Cost for the Outback Sedan is a mere $35,000 equipped with everything you'd want.

If you have more money, the Carrera Porsche was a low $105,000. A must for any up-and-coming young Cree with money to burn. It's the type of car you'd expect James Bond to be driving.

The Grand Am by Pontiac shows some new lines in its styling. Looks really nice but may be a little low in the front clearance for dirt roads with the spoiler. Not the type of car I would like to drive to Winneway in, but an excellent choice for highway driving. Pontiac's new baby, the Aztec, didn't impress me. It looked a little boxy and the only nice thing I could say about the front end is it looks like it might be something that could run you over but that's about the only way you might get excited about it.

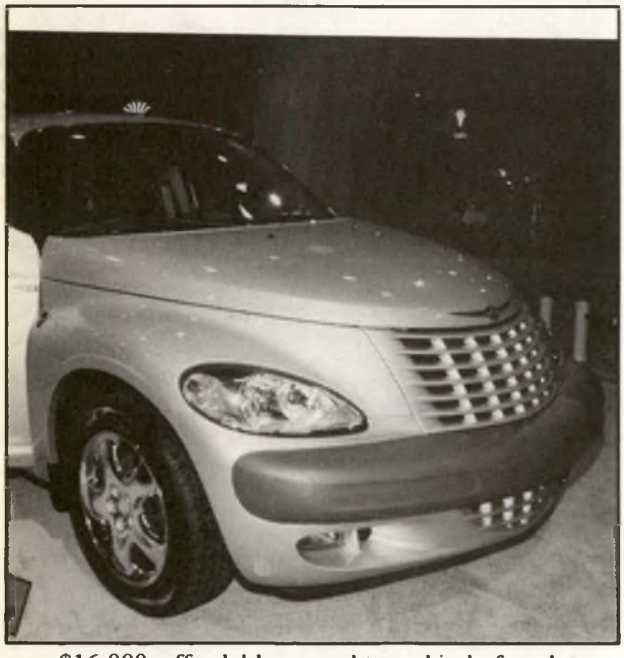
The Lincoln Navigator is just the thing to impress all the homies back on the Rez. It comes with the most powerful engine of its class and the headlights will automatically turn themselves on when it gets dark. The driver and seven passengers have individual climate controls for the maximum in comfort. It seems a little sturdier than what you would expect with an ability to go 100,000 miles (160,000 kilometers for all of you using that new-fangled system). The Navigator will set you back $69,000 fully-loaded.

The Think by Ford was the first of the electric cars we noticed at the show. It is being sold in Europe at the moment and will reach the North American market sometime in 2001, according to the manufacturers. This car can go up to 90 km/hr, but you'll need to recharge before the hour is up because it can only go 85 km before needing a four-to-six-hour battery recharge. They're planning to sell these cars as city-only, where you don't go much over 40 kilometres in a day anyhow. Let's pray the Think never catches on or Great Whale Projects may be just around the corner.

Cont'd on next page

CAR SHOW Y2K

Honda Insight is outasite. Writers pick of the show.



$16,000, affordable around town kind of cool car.

The Bombardier NV (Neighbourhood Vehicle) is another plug-into-the-wallsocket electric car. It has a top speed of 25 mph and can only go 30 miles without a recharge. To tell the truth it looks more suited to the golf course than the roads of Canada. The NV starts at $6,199 and it takes about eight hours to charge up the batteries.

The Honda Insight 2000 was a hybrid gas/electric car that supposedly gets 70 miles to the gallon. This new car costs under $20,000. What is truly great about this car is you don't have to recharge the batteries with a wallsocket. When you brake it recharges the battery. Don't ask me how, but this puts a new spin on calling this type of vehicle a "green energy" car. No worries about any potential huge dam projects with this baby and it'll travel 600 to 700 miles on a single tank of gas. Now that's my kind of car.

Jeep, as always, came through with some nice vehicles. The Grand Cherokee Chief Laredo looked as hot as ever. Feels good was the comment on this baby.

Next up was last year's bad boy of the show, what some crude barbarians would call a babe magnet - the Prowler. In the past the Prowler was only available in purple but this year they had a black model. Cost to the consumer: $65,000 fully-loaded. Base price $61,000.

Chrysler's PT 2000 Cruiser is the new cheap car starting with a base price of $16,000. It has an interesting look and normally I'd advise you to check out Chrysler's web page but they have the most annoying site I've ever had the displeasure to visit. The car itself is a little longer than an Austin Mini with a slimmer nose. Kind of a neat retro deco type of styling that's enjoyable to see.

Caravan Sports were going at $35,615 fully-packed. Liked the new roof bike racks and the doors on either side for the passengers.

The Dodge Ram 1500 V-8 Magnum was looking good. A touch over $40 grand will get you 21 miles per gallon. The bed will carry a 4-wheeler quite nicely.

Mazda's 4x4 has the double doors but a small bed for carrying everything you need. Prices start at around $25,000 so you could use the $15,000 you save by not buying the Dodge for a U-haul wagon.

Neon has a new design and the price is under 20,000 Canadian Pesos. 46 m/gal.

For all the Hummer fans out there the price has jumped to $142,000 so start saving up now. Base price for the Hummer is $111,000. Good luck either way.

17th Annual Chisasibi Invitational Senior Hockey and Broomball Tournament

Place: Job's Memorial Gardens
Chisasibi, QC
Date: March 9, 10, 11 & 12, 2000
Deadline: March 1st, 2000 (5:00 p.m.)

Entry Fees:

Hockey Category	
Class "A"	$1,750.00 (Max. 8 teams)
Class "B"	$1,000.00 (Max. 10 teams)

Broomball Category	
Class "A"	$1,000.00 (Max. 6 teams)
Class "B"	$800.00 (Max. 8 teams)

A LATE PAYMENT of $200.00 will be charged for each category. PHOTOCOPIES OF CHEQUES OR MONEY ORDERS ARE NOT ACCEPTED. Teams that want to pay on arrival will also be charged $200.00. NO EXCEPTIONS.

Schedule will be ready on March 6, 2000.

ALL TEAMS MUST BE READY TO PLAY THURSDAY, MARCH 9, 2000.

PLEASE MAKE CERTIFIED CHEQUE OR MONEY ORDER PAYABLE TO:
Chisasibi Sports & Recreation Association
P.O. Box 668
Chisasibi, QC
J0M 1E0

Prizes:

Hockey Category

Class "A"
Champions ——— $10,000.00 + Banner
Finalists ——— $5,000.00 + Plaque

Class "B"
Champions ——— $6,000.00 + Banner
Finalists ——— $3,000.00 + Plaque

Broomball Category

Class "A"
Champions ——— $5,000.00 + Banner
Finalists ——— $2,500.00 + Plaque

Class "B"
Champions ——— $3,000.00 + Banner
Finalists ——— $1,500.00 + Plaque

All Stars will also be selected and individual trophies will be awarded.

ALL PLAYERS MUST PAY $10.00 FOR PLAYER'S PASS, OR PAY DAILY ADMISSION.

For more information, please call or fax the Recreation Department.
Tel: (819) 855-2878 ext. 311 or ext. 314
Fax: (819) 855-3334

THIS TOURNAMENT IS ORGANIZED FOR THE INTENTION OF GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP AND IN GOOD FRIENDLY SPIRIT.

WHERE'S MARILYN?

Dear Editor,

I have always enjoyed reading "The Nation" ever since the first edition came out. However, I cannot help but express my disappointment of the discontinuation of the "Healing Section" on "The Nation" particularly to the articles on family violence submitted by Marilyn Bearskin. I want to ask why her articles are no longer printed in "The Nation" or any other articles related to family violence.

As a reader of "The Nation" I always looked forward to reading to her articles. I found them to be very interesting and they encouraged me to consider these issues. I admired her courage and integrity on writing about such issues while many of us tend to ignore them or pretend they do not exist.

It is people like her who have the courage to confront realistic issues such as spousal abuse, sexual abuse, child abuse and other forms of family violence and how they affect the Cree Nation, will then our communities become healthier. If we continue to encourage each other about changing serious matters, our communities will become healthier for our children, grandchildren and the future generations. We all know these issues exist within our communities and if one person will write about them to help others think and do something about them, then it's time to have them back in "The Nation" again.

So, for this reason, on behalf of the other readers who enjoyed Marilyn Bearskin's articles, I'm encouraging you as the Editor of "The Nation" to once again run her articles in your future editions of "The Nation."

Thank your for your collaboration to make your readers happy.

Meegwetch!
K. Neeposh
Nemaska

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100-BIRTHS

We would like to congratulate Ms.Marlene Jolly and Mr.Jamie Pash on the birth of their cute little son "Cameron" born on December, 1999. A little cousin for Valeriesh and Celcia. Take good care of your son and may you have many more...With love: Uncle "Joe", Brenda-Rose, Valeriesh and Celcia (Patricia)

Congratulations to Melissa Snowboy and Harry Masty on the birth of their baby girl Crystal on December 23, 1999. Take good care of your sweet little girl. From Patricia, Gordon and Tristan Snowboy. Whapmagoostui, Quebec.

101-BIRTHDAYS

Happy 75th birthday to my grandfather Sandy masty on February 10, 2000. I love you very much. Love always, your grandson, Tristan John Snowboy. Whapmagoostui, Quebec.

A belated birthday greeting goes out to Maggie Moar on november 5, 1999.(i think) ,Janet Moar and to Wayne Voyageur Both on decemder 2 1999 ! And to my Father Peter Moar, on december 21 1999.With Love: Kristen.

Birthday greetings to our sweet little boy Jason Dan George Guanish J. of Fort Albany, Ontario. Jason will be turning two on Valentine's Day! Happy birthday and Happy Valentine's Day! Little Bug! Love, mom and dad and Tessa.

I would like to wish a special Happy Birthday to Virginia Sheshamush (whap)on Jan 31st. I hope that you don't party to much and get drunk real fast. I HOPE YOU GET THE PICTURE. Remember the time in Eastmain what happened that's what I am trying to say!! Joking!!! Have a great time I wish I was there to celebrate it with you. Have a great time!!! Happy birthday to you again but I forgot how old you are!!! Friend Andrea

I want to wish my Mother, Emma Wapachee a Happy 21st Birthday on the 15th of January! Just kidding...you must be around 40 something eh? You never tell me so I figure you must be getting the old age blues now, am I right? Anyway enough about your age...I want to thank you for everything you've done for me, you're a wonderful mother and I love you very much! Once again, Happy belated birthday Mom! Love, Celina

Happy 16th birthday wishes going out to our son/brother/uncle, David A.W. Natawapineskum, who we like to call Junior. We can't believe you're already celebrating your 16th birthday! In the years that we have gotten to know you, we are proud of what you have become: an independent,young hunter. But to your older sisters, you're still always going to be that silly little boy who liked pulling our hair, and constantly gettting us into trouble. Even so, we wouldn't change anything(well, except maybe the hair pulling part)! We all love you very much! Have fun!From Mom, Dad, Alexandra, Isabelle, and your nephew Simonsh.

Happy Birthday "PETE" on the 13th of February. While we are at it, "Happy Valentine's Day!!!" I love you, my friend! I hope this year finds you at PEACE within, in good health and with friendly spirits. I sure miss talking with you! It's always been a treasure, as I learned a great deal from you! You have a lot to give to this world, please remember that! Take Care and Soar HIGH with the eagles! Always on my mind, Fidelio.

Hello! Happy New Year! I would like to send some birthday messages to a few people thru the classifieds on your page.... I hope it works.

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Print your classified clearly in the space provided.

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101 Birthdays	201 Trips
102 Weddings	202 For Rent
103 Anniversaries	300 PERSONALS
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Please let me know how much I owe you. Bill me or something! Here she goes: I would like to wish a very HAPPY BIRTHDAY to Patricia George-Kawapit on February the 9th. I hope this year finds you in good health and it is A-ROCKING!!! I remember when you were a child and by heavens no, you were not a bratty one, in fact you were a sweet angel like Tyra. I love you woman, take care! Enjoy the day, it is meant just for you!!! Guess who? Your oldest sistah, Mary!

I would like to wish a HAPPY BIRTHDAY to my sweet angel, Tyra Masty-Shem on February 18, 2000. Being a child is a time to discover what life consists of through exploration and play. It is full of many wonderful surprises. Take this time to enjoy every aspect of it, therefore when you are ready to live on your own, you will be able to give it all you have. Be patient my child and please take the time to learn, explore, experience and amuse yourself. You are in my daily thoughts and prayers. I love you girl and I miss you. Nee Mary!

I would like to send a belated birthday to my grand father in Chisasibi. Happy 76th Birthday to my " Joomshoom Thomas

CLASSIFIEDS

Pachano "on December 4th 1999.Hugs and kisses are on your way! And another birthday greeting goes out to " Bejikuwiiyou " ! (You know who you are) on December 17 1999.Have fun on your b-day cuz and dont party too much! take-care ! From : Roberta (Nem.)

February Birthday Wishes to these special people in my life, my aunt Josephine or Jo (Wasw.) on the 13th, my dear mom Pauline Etapp (Chisasibi) on the 16th,my other "mom" Dinah Simard in Ojay on the 18th, and last but not least my favorite sister Tanya Blackned (Wask.) on the 25th. Now don't be jealous Mel or Ange ok? See you all at Spring Break. Tanya, I'll be there for your b-day!!! Love, Rachel E.

Happy first birthday to someone special on February 19, 2000. our son Skyler G. Blacksmith. May your day be as special as you are. We love you with all our hearts. From your loving parents, Caroline Blacksmith and Eric Gull. xoxo.

Attention Attention everyone out there, there's a person that I really love who's birthday is on Feb 3 from Great Whale my brother, Brandon Mamianskum who will turn 14. Happy Birthday Bro!! I can't believe your already turning 14 because your so small for your age. Don't be so short like me!! LOL!! I hope you have a great time on your birthday! Have a great one!! I always tell you this but I would like to tell the whole nine cree communities that I love you dearly. There were times when I made you cry and there were times when I hurt you but now I can't do it because you were so small and now your are almost taller than me. All I wanted to say was that I am happy because it's your birthday! Happy 14th Birthday again. I love you and I miss you!! P.S Don't smoke that much!! Love Andrea xox

Sending out this special birthday wish to our sweet daughter Chantal Gull Blacksmith. She will be celebrating her third birthday on February 12. it seems like yesterday you were born. That's how fast you're growing. TYou brought so much joy and happiness in our lives. Hope you have fun on your birthday and at your party. With lots of love and kisses. We love you so much. Mommy and daddy (maxine and Joey) xoxoxox1/2.

We would like to wish our wonderful mother "Emma Wapachee" Happy Birthday on January 15, 2000. May the Good Lord bless you with many more birthdays with your many more grand-children. Ha! Ha! Ha!Anyway at the same time I would like to thank-you for your unconditional love and support...We hope you have a wonderful birthday with the whole gang. Love always: Your daughter Brenda-Rose, Joseph and the precious girls Valeriesh and Celcia (Patricia)

Happy third birthday to our big sister Chantal Gull Blacksmith on February 12. Have fun on your special day. We love you! Don't always make us cry, okay! Love, your sisters, Traci and Felicity.

I would like to wish my friend

E-mail: pfwilkin@pubnix.net

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CLASSIFIEDS

Tyler Moar a Happy 3rd Birthday...Happy birthday to youuuuuu...Happy birthday to youuu...Happy birthday to you! I hope you had fun on your special day. Friend, Patricia-Angel Jolly (Nemaska)

103-ANNIVERSAIES

Soon it will be your 6th anniversary sister, it seems like yestaurdaywhen I saw you in your wedding dress, how beautiful you looked that day,standing by your man.And it's that love that keeps a man and his wife together, in good times and bad times and as your sister, friend and matron of honor I will always be here for you. I wish you both all the more happiness to come. Six years ago,on February 25 in Val D' or, Tanya and Barry Blackned became one. Happy Anniversary sis and "bro". From Rachel and your buddy Karl Simard

200-FOR SALE

Tent for sale. 40 X 60 feet. Aluminum steel frame, no centre pole along with coverings (white tarps). Used only two summers, still in good condition. Price: $23,800.00. First come and first served. For more information don't hesitate to call. Cree Nation of Eastmain C/O Ricky Gilpin or Roger Weapenicappo at 819-977-2262 or 2263. Message: 819-977-0211.

Rabbits for sale. If you are coming down to Val d'Or and would like to buy some rabbits please call to reserve the amount you would like at 819-757-3110. You may leave the message in English.

300-PERSONALS

Happy Valentine's Day to Redfern Cheezo. Thank you for always being there. I love you with all my heart. God bless you always. Love, Gertie and Darwin. Wife and son.

There's a place in my heart just for you. A place no one else has ever reached. A place where only you have touched just by smiling at me or the way you hold my hand and by being yourself when we are alone. Just wanted to remind you how much I'm in love with in a very special way. You came into my life like a burst sunlight. I thank God we're together and married. This goes out to my loving husband Joey Blacksmith. I love you with all my heart. Like we used to say, together forever, now it's happening. Happy Valentine's Daym my love! With love always, your wife Maxine. xoxoxoxo1/2 (Waswanipi)

Happy Valentine's Day to my truly i love, Jonathan Nine O'Clock in Chisasibi. I just want him to know I'll love him with every beat of my heart no matter what happens between us. I never wanna let go of you. You're the best that I ever had in my best and my heart belongs to you until my life ends. I know I'll never find someone like you. You light up my life. If I won't have you someday my heart will break into a million pieces. It will take a few years to make my heart again. You're the most important person in my life. The most thing I think every day is you. and only you. You're stuck in my heart forever and I can't change it. It's like you're flying around in my heart. There's no way out. Last but not least I love you with all my heart. Yours truly and alway will be, Wanda Agnes Einish-21- Lots of love.

Happy Valentine's Day to my daddy Eric Gull on February 14, 2000. And happy belated birthday to you on December 23, 1999. Have a nice new year. We love you. From your son Skyler and Caroline Blacksmith. xoxoxoxoxoxoxoxoxoxoxoxoxox

Happy Valentine's Day to my true love Anderson Paul Jolly. Roses are red, Violets are blue, sugar is sweet and so are you. There's a place in my heart where only you have reached, a place only you have touched by just smiling at me or by being yourself when we are alone. Don't forget that i love you with all my heart. Love, yours truly and always will be, Virginia Saganash. xoxoxoxoxo

Looking for e-mail pen-pals around the cree nation. Anyone interested in writing to me? I am a cree girl between the ages 14-17. And i like to meet new people, especially by e-mail. If you want to get to know me better. Just write to me, my e-mail adress is: g.cree@gurlmail.com

Hey, listen up people. My name is " Ninety Nine ", and I need some e-mail pen pals to write to ! Age, male, or female, it doesn't matter who you are. As long as I receive a e-mail from someone ! My address is at : nine_teen_ninety_nine@hotmail.com . I hope that someone well write 2 mesomeday. So anyway, I should be looking forward of getting a e-mail from anyone, Bye ! Sincerely, Ninety Nine.

Hi, I'm tired of getting nothing in my email. So I was hoping someone could maybe write to me. Who knows, maybe we'll meet someday if you're around the James Bay area after so many emails, cool eh? Anyway I hope to recieve email next time I check (which is pretty often). And I will respond, k? So here's my address, Nii_eeyou@hotmail.com

There's one girl out there that told me to send something for her in the Nation because she never got anything in the Nation and this will be the first time. That girl is from Whapmagoostui, we were in the Arena Porch when you too told me to write something in the Nation. So, here it is, I would like to say Hi to Amy Dick. I hope I didn't embrasse you that much but I made a promise to myself that I would send it to you, I hope you are not bluushing as your reading this. Have a great time!!! From Andrea

Are alcohol and drugs destroying your life? Do you want to help yourself? Maybe we can help. We are Alcoholics Anonymous. We meet in Mistissini on Saturday evenings, 8 p.m., in the basement of St. John's Anglican church.

Seeking email pen pals. Males or females, doesn't matter. I am a female. Just write to me at my email address, Guess_me55@hotmail.com. Just tell me about yourself and I'll tell you about myself when I write back. I promised to respond soon! Hope you write to me!

Just saying hello to Alexandra out in North Bay somewhere, most likely cruising up and down Main Street!(Just joking!) Anyways, we just want to let you know that we are thinking about you, and we are proud of what you have done so far. Keep up the good work, and don't give up. Love & Miss You, from Mom, Dad, Jr., Isabelle, and Simonsh. P.S.: Simon says, " I foo foo!"

I would like to take this time to say Hi, to my friend, Joshua Bosum from OJ, so how's life these days? Anyway give me a call, or email me soon. from your friend Emma in Hull.

Hi to my cousins Tanya, Tiffany, Bryan and Thia'sh Bearskinin Hull. Hope I'll see you soon. Love and miss U. From: Julie.Chisasibi.

Hi to my friends in Mistissini, Nina Metabie, Veronica and CynthiaLongchap. Just wanted to let you girls know that I miss you and can't wait to see you. Also a BIG HELLO to Adrian Petawabano. From: a friend who's in Chisasibi. P.S. Happybirthday to Nina on Feb. 26.

Last night I danced with a stranger. But she only reminded me you were the one. HVD!

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